A Brass Medallion found near Newsted Priory.

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DESCRIPTION

OF AN

ANCIENT MEDALLION,

IN THE POSSESSION

OF

H. ROOKE, Esq.

K

Nottingham:

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M, DCCC.

G.R. III
BRITISH MUSEUM

DESCRIPTION &c.

THE following Inscription is on a brass Medallion, with the Head of St. PAUL, found in the year 1775, by ſome Labourers, who were working near Newsted Priory.—*See the Plate.*

ON THE OBVERSE,

VASELECTIONIS· ·PAVLVS APSTOLVS; which I imagine may ſignify, that Paul was the Apoſtle choſen by Heaven.

On

ON THE REVERSE,

BENEDICIE
INEXCELSIS DEO
DOMINODEFONTI
BVSISRAELIBIBENI
AMIMADOLESCENV
LVSINMENTIS
EXCESSV

These lines, with a little variation, are taken out of Psalm lxviii, verse 27 and 28, of the Latin version, which are, "In ecclesiis benedicite Deo Domino de fontibus Israel." "Ibi Benjamin adolescentulus in mentis excessu." And in a translation from the Latin Vulgate of the Holy Bible, Psalm lxvii, verse 27, "In the churches bless ye God the Lord * from

* "From the fountains of Israel. From whom both Christ and his Apostles sprung. By Benjamin the holy Fathers

from the fountains of Israel;"—verse 28, "There is Benjamin a youth in extacy of mind."

This note sufficiently explains the Inscription; the word *excelsis* may have been intended for *ecclesiis*, but mis-spelled, though it appears to be applicable in either sense; but Benja*mim* is the Hebrew way of writing it. The Medallion was probably struck on some particular occasion, as the dedication of a church, or some event; and from the hole in the top, it seems as if it had been used as a pendant ornament.

I shall

Fathers on this place understand St. Paul, who was of that tribe, named here a youth, because he was the last called to the apostleſhip;" or probably to denote, that being of the youngest tribe, of which he was descended, as mentioned before.

I shall here annex a short account of the life of this Saint.

"Paul, formerly named Saul, of the tribe of Benjamin, a native of Tarsus in Cilicia, a Pharisee by profession, and a Roman citizen, (Acts xxii: 27 28,) first, a persecutor of the church, and afterwards, a disciple of JESUS CHRIST, and apostle of the Gentiles; miraculously converted in his journey to Damascus, whither he was going to bring all those to Jerusalem whom he should find there believing in the name of Christ.

After this, Paul became a zealous and faithful labourer in his Master's vineyard for upwards of thirty years; till having converted a cupbearer and concubine of Nero, who upon the account of her beauty, was extremely dear

to

to him, so provoked the Emperor, that he caused the Apostle to be apprehended and thrown into prison. Soon after he received the crown of martyrdom, being beheaded at a place called the Salvian Waters, in the sixty-sixth year of our Lord, and sixty-eighth of his age, author of fourteen epistles, containing the most important articles of the Christian faith."

Newsted Priory was founded by king Henry II. for Canons regular of the Austin order, dedicated to St. Mary, to whom he gave the town and church of Papplewick, and other lands, with large liberties. King John, while Earl of Morton, gave other lands, all which he confirmed after he was king.——Yearly value at the dissolution, 167l. 16s. 11d.

Finis.

G R
III
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